Mapline

A quarterly newsletter published by
The Hermon Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography at
The Newberry Library

Number 71 Autumn 1993

Petrus Bertius and the "Nubian Geography"

Nova orbis tabula, ex fide geographi nubiensis delineata studi Petri Bertii.... Novacco Collection, the Newberry Library.

During my brief tenure (1989) as Fellow at the Hermon Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography I discovered that the Newberry Library is the rare possessor of a most unusual map titled *Nova Orbis tabula, ex fide Geographi Nubiensis delineata Petri Bertii, Christianissimi Francorum Regii Cosmographi.* Not noted in the literature so far,[1] this undated rectangular map, printed in black on a white sheet of paper 47x64 cm., represents the three continents of Europe, Asia, and Africa (Cover Illustration).

The source of this map is *Nizhat al-mushtaq fi-khtiraq al-afaq* [Entertainment for the One Desirous to Travel the Lands][2] by Abu 'Abdallah Muhammad ibn Muhammad ibn 'Abdallah ibn Idris (493/1100-560/1165), the greatest geographer of the Middle Ages. The new *History of Cartography*[3] devotes a separate chapter to al-Idrisi's cartographic system and maps (Chapter 7 by S. Maqbull Ahmad). Al-Idrisi's work (an extensive narrative accompanied by maps) had been done at the Norman court of Sicily. It draws on Muslim as well as Christian sources, both early and contemporary; in this respect it is unique for the twelfth century.

Although many Arabic works in the areas of mathematics, astronomy, and medicine were translated in Europe, Arabo-Islamic geography generally remained unknown in the West. And even though al-Idrisi worked at the court of a European (and nominally Christian) ruler, he ended his days in Morocco, and his work remained unknown in Europe for many centuries.

In 1592 an abridged version of *kitab nuzhat al-mushtaq* became one of the first secular books in Arabic to be printed in Europe (Rome: Typographia Medici). In 1619, a Latin translation of the 1592 text was published in Paris as *Geographia Nubiensis.*[4] This title is the source of the reference given by Bertius on the map.

In general terms, al-Idrisi's cartography followed the Ptolemaic system of dividing the Inhabited Quarter of the globe into seven astronomically determined latitudinal zones called "climates." A characteristic feature of Ptolemaic maps is the extension of the African continent far to the east so that it forms the southern coast of the Indian Ocean, but in Arab cartography the Indian Ocean was never completely enclosed. Another distinction from Ptolemy was al-Idrisi's abandonment of degree measurements for geographical coordinates. In addition, his cartographic projection ignored the changing value of the degree of longitude: his climates are bands of equal length, stacked vertically from the Equator down (the map orientation is to the south).

An innovation designed by al-Idrisi to compensate for the absent meridians was the division of climates into ten sections numbered from west to east. Complete copies of manuscripts of *Nuzhat al-mushtaq* contain seventy sectional maps distributed throughout the narrative, which is divided accordingly into seven climate chapters, with ten section subchapters each. There is no evidence that al-Idrisi ever drew one complete world map following his own projection and incorporating all the seventy sections[5] -- such as Konrad Miller reconstructed in the 1920s.[6] But almost exactly three hundred years before Miller this was done by Pierre (Petrus) Bertius (Bert, de Bert 1565-1629). A Belgian by birth and a convert from Protestantism who arrived at the French court in 1620, Bertius was a mathematician and geographer highly skilled in map-making. His *Geographische Tabellen* (Frankfurt, 1619) and *Theatrum geographiae veteris* (Amsterdam, 1619) were well received by the contemporaries and earned him the appointment as Royal Cosmographer to Louis XIII.

Neither the Medici edition nor the Latin translation reproduced any maps. Since al-Idrisi never explained the rules governing his projection, Bertius must have had access to at least one manuscript with maps -- possibly the very same one that had served for the 1592 edition and later ended up at the Bibliothèque Nationale -- to effect such a faithful reconstruction, instantly recognizable as an Idrisi derivative even without the credit given

The Hermon Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography was founded in 1972 at The Newberry Library to promote the study of the history of cartography through research projects, fellowships, courses of instruction, and publications. Further information about the Center is available on request from the Director, **David Buisseret.**

Mapline is published four times a year by the Hermon Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography. Annual subscription is $8.00 for U.S. and North America; $10.00 elsewhere. Back issues (as available) $2.00 each. Please address all correspondence to **James R. Akerman,** Editor, *Mapline,* The Newberry Library, 60 West Walton St., Chicago, IL 60610. ISSN 0196-0881

"Geographus Nubiensis" in the title. Al-Idrisi was not of Nubian origin, nor did he ever visit Nubia. The title resulted from a misunderstanding which was not resolved until 1866.

While al-Idrisi's text was highly regarded and often quoted by later Islamic geographers, his maps were much less frequently imitated. The Bertius exercise, which has remained unknown to both Arabists and geographers, is completely unique, whether taken in the context of western culture or globally.

This is not a simple translation of the maps: while the schema of seven climates divided into ten sections had been preserved, the contours of features were modified to reflect the land masses somewhat more realistically. Changes are especially noticeable in the instance of Africa which now extends southward and shows the Atlantic coast beyond the equator curving east to form the Gulf of Guinea and then south, tapering toward an extremity which remains beyond the map border (this correction unexpectedly created some new mistakes[7]). The Iberian peninsula, Scandinavia, Normandy, the British and Mediterranean islands all show signs of "editing" by a scholar of the era when broad public awareness of the Great Explorations made it impossible for a court geographer to follow a medieval authority blindly, even in a purely academic exercise.

The map, in this case oriented to the north, numbers the climates and sections in the traditional sequence, but Bertius had added two groups of unnumbered sections. To the west of the First Section, a longitudinal band accommodates two groups of islands in the Atlantic -- approximately corresponding to the more recently discovered Cape Verde islands, in addition to the Canaries familiar since Antiquity. South of the equator, through the total length of climate sections now totalling eleven, two latitudinal bands allow Bertius to show Equatorial Africa. The subequatorial African mainland is blank except for the sources of the Nile, shown originating from the Mountains of the Moon in accordance with Ptolemy whom Arab geography imitated in this instance.

Notes scattered in various places around the map indicate that Bertius carefully consulted the text of the *Geographia Nubiensis*. Appropriate page numbers from the book are marked in the upper left corners of rectangles formed by climate and section boundaries.

While the map looks "busy," it contains only a small share of geographical features and placenames provided by al-Idrisi. Very few cities are marked. Bertius's map of western Africa is so sparsely marked that even Ethiopia, the country described by al-Idrisi in some detail and of great interest to Europe because of its allegiance to Christianity and the search for Prester John, has few markings. The nomenclature is a mixture of European, often Latinized names, and transcriptions of Arabic placenames.

For the informed public of the early seventeenth century, the maps created (or re-created) by Bertius could have little more than curiosity value. Almost inevitably the translation could at best illustrate the brilliance of twelfth-century Islamic cartography; it failed to bring relevance to the study of Arab and Islamic geographers and did not lead to analysis of Islamic cartographic projections.

It is likely that Bertius himself did not see any contemporary value in al-Idrisi's data. But this example of an early modern geographer showing an interest in Arabo-Islamic geographic data, while never widespread in Europe, was not completely unique. I have found placenames and excerpts from narratives, especially from *Geographia Nubiensis*, in a number of European cosmographies and maps, some as late as the 1660s. In an era of dynamically expanding knowledge about the world such excursi into Arab geography seem to indicate the great respect the humanists of modern Europe still felt for Islamic science.

Marina Tolmacheva
Washington State University

References

1. The bibliography of al-Idrisi studies now counts hundreds of titles. I first reported the existence of this map in the paper "Arab Cartography in *Nova Orbis Tabula* by Bertius" at the 14th International Conference on the History of Cartography, 14-19 June 1991, Uppsala and Stockholm.

2. *Opus geographicum*, 9 vols., ed. Enrico Cerulli (Naples and Rome, 1970-84).

3. J. B. Harley and David Woodward, ed., *The History of Cartography*, vol. 2, book 1, *Cartography in the Traditional Islamic and South Asian Socities* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992).

4. *Geographia Nubiensis, id est accuratissima totius orbis in septem climata divisi descriptio continens praesertim exactam universiae Asiae et Africae, rerumque in iis hactenus incognitarum explicationem* (Paris: Hieronymus Blageart, 1619). This was the first published translation; there was an earlier translation, which has remained unpublished. See my "Al-Idrisi's *Geography* and Early Orientalism" (forthcoming).

5. The world map prepared by al-Idrisi for King Roger, according to a fourteenth-century source, was a planisphere engraved on a silver disk.

6. Konrad Miller, *Mappa Arabicae: Arabische Welt- und Landkarten*, 6 vols. (Stuttgart, 1926-27), vol. 1, part 2; and vol. 6.

Smith Center Announcements

New Publications

Mapline is pleased to announce the publication of Special Number 7. Entitled *Cartographic Encounters: An Exhibition of Native American Maps from Central Mexico to the Arctic*, the 24-page special number publishes the captions from the recent, highly successful exhibit of Indian and Inuit cartography developed for the Newberry by Mark Warhus (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee). The exhibit was mounted on the occasion of the 11th Kenneth Nebenzahl, Jr., Lectures in the History of Cartography (also entitled "Cartographic Encounters"), which immediately followed the 15th International Conference on the History of Cartography last June. We believe this was the first major exhibition of Native American mapping to be mounted anywhere, and we have received many requests for further information about it. We thought the best way to fulfill these requests and to stimulate further research in Indian cartography was to publish Mr. Warhus's captions, along with illustrations of several of the maps in the exhibit, and a select bibliography. Mapline Special Number 7 will be distributed free to subscribers and to persons who attended the twin conferences in June. Others may obtain it from the Center for $2.00, plus our customary $1.50 (per order) shipping/handling charge.

We have recently restocked the supply of our nineteen slides set. Each set includes six slides reproducing maps and other images relating to the history of cartography and the transatlantic encounter, plus textual commentary. The sets are $10.00, plus shipping and handling. For a complete list, write for our publication list, care of Tom Willcockson at teh Smith Center.

Smith Center Fellows

Lisa Blansett, a Ph. D. candidate in English Literature at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, began a three-month fellowship in mid-August. Lisa is here doing research for her dissertation, which examines the relationship between the concepts of space in cartography and the British novel in the Restoration period and the eighteenth century.

In November we will welcome back to Chicago Prof. **Alexei Postnikov** of the Institute of the History of Natural Sciences and Technology in Moscow. Dr. Postnikov will be spending six months here to renew and enlarge his research on the mapping of Alaska and Northern California (Russian America), 1741-1867. This is a project he has been working on for several years and which he pursued during a short-term fellowship in 1990-91.

Each year the Center sponsors one or two long-term Fellowships for six to twelve months of research in residence at the Library. These fellowships are intended to enable established scholars to undertake or complete substantial projects in the history of cartography. They are designed not only to encourage the individual scholar's research, but also to deepen and enrich the opportunities for intellectual exchange through the active participation of Fellows in the Newberry community. The maximum stipend for these fellowships is $30,000.

In addition, the Center funds five or six short-term fellowships every year. These shorter fellowships are intended primarily for scholars who need to work in the Newberry's cartographic collections. The monthly stipend for short-term fellowships is $800, and a fellowship may last from two weeks to three months.

Applications for long-term fellowships are considered once a year, with a deadline of March 1.

Applications for short-term fellowships are considered twice a year, with deadlines of March 1 (for periods after the following May 15) and October 15 (for periods after the following January 1). For additional information and fellowship applications write James Akerman at the Smith Center.

Briefly Noted

Conferences and Exhibitions

Editing Early and Historical Atlases. To honor the completion of the publication of the three-volume *Historical Atlas of Canada,* the **University of Toronto Library** is sponsoring a two-day conference on the history of atlas editing. The conference will be held of 5-6 November 1993 at the University of Toronto Library and will include papers by William G. Dean (Director of the *Historical Atlas of Canada* project) James R. Akerman (The Newberry Library), Mary Pedley (William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan), Walter Goffart (Department of History, University of Toronto), Anne Godlewska (Department of Geography, Queens University), and Cole Harris (University of British Columbia, Editor of the *Historical Atlas of Canada,* volume 1). Two exhibits will accompany the conference, one entitled *The Atlas as a Book,* at the **Thomas Fisher Rare Books Library**, the other an exhibit on the production of the *Historical Atlas of Canada*. Registration for the conference is Can.$65.00. For further information write Joan Winearls, University of Toronto Library, Toronto, M5S 1A5, Canada (phone 416/978-1958; FAX 416/978-7653).

The **Austrian National Library**, the **Austrian Academy of Sciences**, and the **Department of Geography of the University of Vienna** have announced plans for the 16th International Conference on the History of Cartography, to be held in Vienna 11-16 September 1995. The topics for the Vienna conference will be: (1) Central, Eastern, and Southeastern European cartography; (2) Near and Middle Eastern cartography; (3) Relief representation; (4) Map reproduction; (5) Celestial charts; and (6) Varia. Persons interested in the first circular of the conference, to be issued in the first half of 1994, should write to: 16th International Conference on the History of Cartography, c/o Austrian National Library, Map Department and Globe Museum, Josefplatz 1, A-1015 Vienna, Austria.

The **Library of Congress** is the opening site of a new exhibition of literary maps and photographs. ***Language of the Land: Journeys into Literary America*** examines the nation's literary heritage through picturesque literary maps, photographs evocative of specific regions of the country, and quotations from authors who have created lasting images of America in their poetry and prose. *Language of the Land* is made possible by a grant from the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund. The exhibition is part of the Literary Heritage of the States project of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. The exhibit opened at the James Madison Building foyer on 5 August, and will remain at the library until 17 January 1994. This venue alone will include rare and book and manuscript material. A travelling version of the show will visit 16 venues under the sponsorship of state centers for the book. The first such showing will be 1 September - 30 October at the Currigan Exhibition Hall in Denver, Colorado. For a full list of subsequent showings, contact the Library of Congress Public Affairs Office, Washington, DC 20540 (phone 202/707-2905).

Fellowships and Awards

A team of scholars at the **University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee** has received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities Research Tools and Grants Program to produce an ***Archive of North American Indian Maps on CD-ROM.*** The goal of this project is to create a research oriented visual digital database containing map images, information about each map, and a catalogue. The database is intended to function as a research tool for scholars studying the cartography, landscape perceptions, cognition, art, and history of American Indians; as well as serving as a curatorial tool. Surviving examples of Indian and Inuit maps are scattered in a large number of libraries, archives, museums, and private collections throughout North America and Europe. They are catalogued as maps, manuscript documents, and ethnological artifacts, and are currently not available for study as a coher-

ent corpus of information. The creation of a hypermedia archival database of these maps will not only bring them "together," but will also enable the researcher to perform sophisticated searches of text and image and to magnify and manipulate the images. The project began its work this past July, and will be completed in December 1994. For further information, please write Prof. Sona Andrews, Project Director, David Tilton, or Mark Warhus, Associate Directors, c/o Department of Geography, P.O. Box 413, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI 53201 (phone 414/229-4866, 4872).

The **IMCoS-R.V. Tooley Award for 1993** has been presented to **Nico Israel** of Amsterdam, in recognition of his outstanding achievements as an antiquarian book and map dealer and as publisher of carto-bibliographical works of great significance for the history of cartography. Mr. Israel has been an independent antiquarian bookseller since 1945 with a particular interest in cartography, travel, and maritime books. In 1960 he started publishing and founded, in 1963, in partnership with Kees Broekema the firm of Theatrum Orbis Terrarum. By 1973 they had published 36 volumes of facsimile atlases. His cartographical publications also include *Atlantes Neerlandici*, the authoritative bibliography of Dutch and Belgian atlases by Cor Koeman, *Acta Cartographica*, and volumes 16-26 of *Imago Mundi*.

The **Beinecke Rare Book Room and Manuscript Library at Yale University** is now accepting applications for fellowships to support research in residence in the library during the academic year 1994-95. The fellowships support travel to and from New Haven and pay a living expense stipend of $1800 per month. Among these fellowships is the **Alexander O. Vietor Fellowship** in cartography, discovery, exploration, and related fields. The Map Collection at Sterling Memorial Library participates in this program. The combined cartographic resources of the Beinecke and The Map Collection number some 200,000 mapsheets and more than 2000 pre-1900 atlases, as well as important works on cosmography, voyages, travel, and discovery. The Map Collection is particularly strong for the American colonial period and in American maps of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, while the Western Americana Collection at Beinecke holds specialized materials on the Trans-Mississippi West. The Beinecke's Taylor Collection contains books and manuscripts on navigation and the exploration of America. There is no special application form for the fellowships. Applicants are asked to submit a résumé and a brief research proposal (not to exceed three pages) to the Director, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Box 1603A Yale Station, New Haven, CT 06520-1603. All application materials must be received by 15 January 1994. Awards for the period September 1994-May 1995 will be announced in March 1994.

The **John Carter Brown Library** is accepting applications for the approximately fifteen research fellowships it will award to scholars wishing to work in residence at the library during the year 1 June 1994 - 31 May 1995. Short-term fellowships are offered to American and foreign nationals engaged in pre- or post-doctoral, or independent, research. Short-term fellowships cover periods of two to four months and carry a stipend of $1000 per month. Among these fellowships are the **Alexander O. Vietor Memorial Fellowship** for research in early maritime history and the **Jeanette D. Black Memorial Fellowship** for research in the history of cartography or a closely related area. A few fellowships without stipend are also offered, but scholars interested in this option must go through the normal application procedure. The library's long-term fellowships are supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities. These fellowships are open only to American citizens and last six months and carry a stipend of $15,000. Travel grants of up to $600 for stays lasting two weeks to two months are also available. For further information about these programs, the holdings of the library, and application forms, write the Director, John Carter Brown Library, Box 1894, Providence, RI 02912. The deadline for submission of applications is 15 January 1994.

The **Washington Map Society** has announced the creation of the **Walter W. Ristow Essay Prize**, honoring the society's illustrious co-founder and Chief of the Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress from 1968 to 1978. Dr. Ristow's cartographic career began with a stint with U.S. Army Military Intelligence during World War II. He joined the staff of the Geography and Map Division in 1946. He is the author or editor of many historical and bibliographical articles and reference books, including *American Maps and Map Makers: Commercial Cartography in the Nineteenth Century* (1985). Throughout his career he has been active in

many professional societies in the library and cartographic fields, from which he has received many awards and honors for his tireless public service and publications. The first Ristow Prize will be awarded in May 1994 to three outstanding graduate-level or upper-level undergraduate papers on the history of cartography or equivalent bibliographic studies dealing with cartographic material. Students may be in their first post-doctoral year. Papers must be postmarked by 15 March 1994 to Nancy Goodin Miller, Walter W. Ristow Essay Prize, 406 St. Lawrence Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20901. Papers should be no more than 25 pages in length, including pertinent maps, photographs or other illustrations. The paper may consist of an abstract of a course paper or doctoral dissertation. Papers should be appropriately documented and shall be submitted in typescript, double-spaced and single-sided. If no papers are judged to be either appropriate or sufficiently meritorious in a given year, the right is reserved to make no award. The first place winner will receive a prize of $300, second place, $200, and third, $100. The papers will be printed in successive issues of *The Portolan*, the newsletter of the Washington Map Society.

Applications are now being accepted for the first **J.B. Harley Research Fellowships in the History of Cartography**, in association with The **British Library, National Maritime Museum, Public Record Office,** and **Royal Geographical Society**. These fellowships are designed to help support scholars wishing to do research in the history of cartography in the London region for periods of two or four weeks, and will carry a stipend of £400 or 800. A single month-long fellowship or two two-week fellowships will awarded in February 1994, based on applications received by 1 November 1993. Applications are invited from anyone pursuing advanced research in the history of cartography, irrespective of nationality, discipline, or profession. They will be judged on scholarly criteria, but will not normally be accepted from those residing within commuting distance of London. Recipients will be expected to be based in London, to be working towards publication, and to participate in the activities in the history of cartography in the London region. Preference will be given to interpretive studies in map history, irrespective of area, theme, or period. There is no special application form. Four copies each of an outline research proposal of not more than 100 words, together with a curriculum vitae which includes a list of relevant publications, to: The Hon. Secretary, The J.B. Harley Research Fellowships, c/o Map Library, The British Library, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG, United Kingdom. For copies of an explanatory brochure, please write the same address.

Maps and Society

The Warburg Institute, the **University of London** has announced the program for 1993-94 of lectures in the ***Maps and Society Series***. Now in its third year, the series has been organized by Catherine Delano Smith (University of London) and Tony Campbell (British Library, Map Library). The series has been made possible through the generous sponsorship of The International Map Collectors' Society, Jonathan Potter of Jonathan Potter Ltd., and Laurence Worms of Ash Rare Books. It receives the support of The Map Collector. The series will open this year on 28 October 1993 with a lecture by Professor Stephen Bann (Center for Modern Cultural Studies, University of Kent), on "The Map as Index of the Real: Land Art and the Authentication of Travel." All lectures begin at 5:00 p.m. at the Warburg Institute, Woburn Square, London WC1H 0AB. They are free and open to the public. For details about subsequent meetings, refer to the Calendar at the back of Mapline.

Collection Announcements

Davidson College, in Davidson, North Carolina, has announced its acquisition of the **William Patterson Cumming map collection**. Mr. Cumming was a graduate of Davidson and Professor of English there for many years. He was a much acclaimed collector of maps and author of several works on the mapping of the southeastern U.S., including his book, *The Southeast in Early Maps* (Princeton, 1958). The maps in his collection date from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries, with its greatest strength lying in the eighteenth century. The E. H. Little Library at Davidson, where the collection now will be housed, has published and is distributing a small illustrated booklet describing the collection.

IMCoS

The **International Map Collectors' Society**, or IMCoS invites interested parties to apply for membership. The aim of the Society is to promote and encourage the activity of map collecting, the study of cartography and its history. The society encourages a wide range of participants, from beginners to specialist collectors, dealers, librarians, and academics. It publishes a quarterly journal, and holds a Summer Symposium, Map Fair and Dinner (usually in London), as well as regional meetings, and an annual symposium at international locations. Memberships begin at $8 per year. For an application and informational brochure, write Mrs. Caroline Batchelor, Membership Secretary, International Map Collectors Society, Pikes, The Ridgeway, Oxshott, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 0LG, UK.

Recent Publications

The Power of Maps, Like - Wow!, 95 Octane -- See them go...

Wood, Denis, with John Fels. *The Power of Maps*. New York and London: Guilford, 1992. 248p., illus.; hbk. ISBN 0-89862-492-4, pbk. 0-89862-493-2.

This little book has a sober binding, but once past that, sobriety is cast to the winds. Using a Tom Wolfe-ish, "in-your-face" style, Wood lays into all those people and organizations which, in his view, try to disguise the essentially interest-laden nature of maps. Tom Van Sant's "Portrait Map of the Earth" comes in for some particularly rough handling. Wood characteristically describes the work's claims like this: "Here it is - finally, after all these centuries - the next best thing to an eyeball in space !" He goes on to show, with brilliant precision, just how far from the truth this claim would be. The USGS Wanaque Triangle is deconstructed in much the same way, as are various products of the National Geographic Society and the State of North Carolina.

Wood advances several arguments that would merit longer - though not necessarily more ponderous - treatment. He seems to accept, for instance, that map-symbolism over the course of a human life generally parallels the development of such symbols in whole societies. He also seems to conflate "the ability to make maps" with "spatial cognition," thus, in traditional terms, blurring the (necessary) distinction between sailing-directions and their expression in charts. To put it in his terms, just because a bee can find and even indicate a source of honey does not mean that it has constructed a mental map.

This is a book that Brian Harley -- to whom it is dedicated -- would have loved, particularly in its irreverence. The present reader finds almost all books about twice as long as they need be, so that he was surprised to find himself wishing that Wood had written at greater length, particularly in the final chapter on "The interest served can be yours." Wow, what a read...like, laser-boosted, man! (D.B.)

Pedley, Mary Sponberg. *Bel et Utile: The Work of the Robert de Vaugondy Family of Mapmakers*. Tring, Hertfordshire: Map Collector Publications, 1992. 251p., many plates, some col.; limited ed. of 750 copies, hbk. ISBN 0-906430-12-7, £85 from Map Collector Publications, 48 High Street, Tring, Herts HP23 5BH, England.

It sometimes seems that, in this golden age of the coffee-table book, the quality of a book's production is inversely related to its intellectual substance. Not so with this fine and beautiful tribute to the work of Gilles Robert Vaugondy and his son Didier Robert de Vaugondy, two of the most important cartographic editors and publishers of the eighteenth century. The price tag of this limited edition may strike some as steep (it is more, for example, than a single volume of the Harley and Woodward *History of Cartography*), but it truly is a beautiful book chock full of excellent plates. More importantly, collectors, students of the period, and research libraries will be glad to have made the investment, for this will most certainly be the standard work on the Roberts for at least a century, and it is one of the finest works of cartographic biography -- if not the finest -- I have ever read. The story of the Roberts, especially the son Didier, is somewhat tragic. Inheritors of the trade and much of the stock of the Sanson family, they typify the eighteenth-century Parisian geographer/entrepreneur who might all at once have been scientist, surveyor, map compiler, publisher, and seller. This is a story that Pedley tells sympathetically in uncomplicated prose that effortlessly relates complex thoughts. We are, for example, taken on a tour of an extraordinary debate in Chapter Six, "The

Accuracy of Maps," between Didier Robert de Vaugondy and some of his rivals concerning the degree to which the accuracy of reference maps should be valued over their beauty and utility. This chapter brings into sharp focus the internal jealousies and politics of French geographical science

"Turquie Européene," from *Atlas Universel* (Paris, 1757-[58]). Courtesy of the Edward E. Ayer Collection, the Newberry Library.

and the map trade, the bitterness of which -- especially in the context of his lifelong feud with Philippe Buache -- cost Didier honors he may have deserved and was a major contributor in the misfortunes that befell Didier and his family at the end of his life. Though a very personal story, Bel et Utile provides a broad view of the interaction of politics, science, and commercial cartography in the eighteenth century, and is a "must read" for anyone interested in that interaction. (J.A.)

Thomas Suárez. *Shedding the Veil: Mapping the European Discovery of America and the World. Based on Selected Works from the Sidney R. Knafel Collection of Early Maps, Atlases, and Globes, 1434-1865.* Singapore; River Edge, N.J.: World Scientific, 1993. xiii, 172 p., 41 b & w, 25 color plates; hbk. ISBN 981-02-0869-3, $65 from World Scientific, USA, 1060 Main St., River Edge, NJ 07661.

Imagine having an extraordinary collection of cartographic items illustrating the discovery and mapping of America, ranging from a 1434 portolan chart showing the Atlantic islands to New England coastal charts of the mid-nineteenth century, and including important printed maps by Waldseemüller, Gastaldi, Zaltieri, and John Mitchell, to name just a few highlights. Imagine selecting 61 of these items, reproducing each one (22 of them in color), and describing them in informative essays which give fascinating historical background and careful, detailed readings of the map content. That is what Thomas Suárez has done for the maps collected by Sidney Knafel, and the result is a valuable addition to the literature on American discovery period maps. The maps were, in fact, exhibited at three different venues between October 1991 and November 1992, so this is an exhibition catalogue. But the essays (many of which extend to several pages) go far beyond what one could say in any caption, and are like having a voluble and learned curator at your side elaborating on the images in front of you. There is a great deal of cartographic and discovery history here, both basic and arcane, and anyone interested in either topic will not fail to be entertained and enlightened. (R.K.)

Notices

(Compiled by Eric W. Wolf, with additions by the editor)

Andrews, J. H. *History in the Ordnance Map: An Introduction for Irish Readers*, 2nd ed. Kerry, Newtown: David Archer, 1993. Viii, 63p., illus.; ISBN 0-9517579-2-X, £7.90.

Barker, K., and R. J. P. Kain, eds. *Maps and History in South-West England.* Exeter: University of Exeter Press, 1991. £8.95.

Beenakker, Jan, ed. *De steden van Hollands Noordwartier: Alkmaar, Beverwijk, Edam, Enkhuizen, Grootebroek, Hoorn, Medemblik, Monnickendam, Purmerend.* Historische plattegronden van Nederlandse steden, no. 5. Lisse: Stichting Historische Stadsplattegronden; Alphen aan den Rijn: Canaletto, 1991. 120p. text, 47 maps in facsimile on 53 sheets; ISBN 90-6469-658-6, f 185.

Biesen, D. W. van, et al., eds. *Kadastrale atlas van Drenthe 1832*: Deel XIII = *Rolde.* Assen: Stichtung Kadastrale Atlas van Drenthe, 1992. ISBN 90-71623-12-2.

Büttner, Manfred, ed. *Neue Wege in der Mercator-Forschung: Mercator als Universalwissenschaftler.* Bochum: Universitätsverlag Dr. N. Brockmeyer, 1993. 145p.; ISBN 3-8196-0077-9.

Brincken, Anna-Dorothee von den. *Finis terrae: die Enden der Erde und der Kontinent auf mittelalterlichen Weltkarten.* Hannover: Hahn, 1992. ISBN 3-7752-5436-6.

Dufour, Liliane. *Atlante Storico della Sicilia: La Città Costiere nella Cartografia Manoscritta, 1500-1823 [Historical Atlas of Sicily: The Coastal City in Manuscript Cartography, 1500-1823].* Palermo, 1992. Distributed by LICOSA, Florence; L300,000.

Eck, J. van, B. Looper, et al., eds. *Kadastrale atlas Gelderland 1832: Zutphen.* Stichting Werkgroep Kadastrale Gelderland, [1992]. 9 maps in portfolio. ISBN 90-71988-10-4.

Ferro, Gaetano. *Carte Nautiche dal Medioevo all'Età Moderna [Nautical Charts from the Middle Ages to Modern Times].* Genoa, 1992. Distributed by LICOSA, Florence; L50,000.

Gavish, Dov. *Land and Map: The Survey of Palestine, 1920-1948.* Jerusalem: Yad Izhak Ben Avi, 1992.

Giroud, Vincent. *The Road to Yorktown: Maps and Manuscripts from the Archive of General Rochambeau, the Gift of Paul Mellon.* New Haven: The Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale University, 1992. Illus. exhibit catalogue; pbk., 18p.

An Illustrated Survey of the Ordnance Survey in Ireland. Dublin: Ordnance Survey of Ireland; Belfast: Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland, 1991. £5.

Kret, Wojnech, Teresa Packo, Danuta Stachnal-Talanda, and Ewa Golab-Jankowska, eds. *Katalog Dawnych Map Rzeczypospolietj Polskie W Koleckcji Emeryka Hutten Czapskiego I W Innych Zbiorach [A Catalogue of Early Maps of the Polish Commonwealth in the Collection of Emeryk Hutton Czapski and in Others],* vol. 2, *Mapy XVII Wieku [17th Century Maps].* Wroclaw, Warsaw, Krakow, and Gdansk: Zaklad Narodowy Imienia Ossolinskich Wydawnictwo Polskiej Akademii Nauk, 1992 (Vol. 1, 15th-16th Century maps, publ. 1978).

Krogt, Peter van der. *Globi Neerlandici: The Production of Globes in the Low Countries.* Utrecht: HES, 1993? Edition of 1000 copies; hbk., approx. 700p., 600 illus.; ISBN 90-6194-138-5, Dfl. 795.

Krogt, Peter van der, ed. *Stock Catalogues of Maps and Atlases by Covens & Mortier: The 'Catalogus verscheyde koopere plaaten' of the Heirs of Pieter Mortier's Widow (1721) and the `Catalogue nouveau des cartes geographicques' of Covens & Mortier (1763).* Utrecht: HES, 1992. Facsimile ed.

Kuyer, Chr. A. M. *Brabantia Illustrata II: Inventaris van Topografische Afbeeldingen aanwezig in de Brabant Collectie van de Kathioleke Universiteit Brabant [Brabant Illustrated II: Inventory of the Topographic Representation of Brabant in the Holdings of the Brabant Collection of the Catholic University of Brabant].* Tilburg: Bibliotheek Katholieke Universiteit Brabant, 1992.

Lobeck, Armin K. *Things Maps Don't Tell Us: An Adventure into Map Interpretation.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 160p., illus.; pbk. Reprint of a classic.

Oliver, Richard. *Ordnance Survey Maps: A Concise Guide for Historians.* [Charles Close Society], 1993. 192p., £12.95.

Pastoureau, Mireille. Voies Océanes: Cartes Marines et Grandes Découvertes [Ocean Roads: Sea Charts and the Great Discoveries]. Paris: Bibliothèque Nationale, 1992. F175.

Salone, Anna Maria, and Fausto Amalberti. *Corsica Immagine e Cartografia [Corsica's Image and Cartography].* Genoa, 1992. Distributed by LICOSA, Florence. L80,000.

Snyder, John P. *Flattening the Earth: Two Thousand Years of Map Projections.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1993. Hbk., 365p., illus.; ISBN 0-226-76746-9, $45.

Stephenson, Richard M. *"A Plan Whol[l]y New": Pierre Charles L'Enfant's Plan of the City of Washington.* Washington: Library of Congress, 1993. Hbk., 85p., illus.; $13 from Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

Wolf, Eric W. *The History of Cartography: A Bibliography, 1981-1992.* Falls Church, Va.: The Washington Map Society and Fiat Lux, 1992. 94p.; ISBN 0-9633154-1-4, $12.50 in the U.S., $15 elsewhere from Fiat Lux, 6300 Waterway Drive, Falls Church, Va. 22044-1316.

Calendar

14 October 1993, 5:30 p.m.
The Chicago Map Society, The Newberry Library: Allen Meyer (Chicago): "The Mapping of Dairen, China before and after World War II."

28 October 1993, 5:00 p.m.
Maps and Society lecture series, The Warburg Institute, Woburn Square, London: Stephen Bann (Center for Modern Cultural Studies, University of Kent), on "The Map as Index of the Real: Land Art and the Authentication of Travel."

4-6 November 1993
The Longitude Symposium, a conference on the early history of methods of finding longitude at sea will be held at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts. For information write Longitude Symposium, Harvard University, Science Center B6, Cambridge, MA 02138 or FAX 617/495-3344.

11 November 1993, 5:30 p.m.
The Chicago Map Society, The Newberry Library: Lee Davis (University of Nebraska), "Mapping among Native Americans in Northern California."

18 November 1993, 5:00 p.m.
Maps and Society lecture series, The Warburg Institute, Woburn Square, London: Karen Severud Cook (Map Library, The British Library), "False Starts: Early Colour Printing of Geological Maps."

6 December 1993, 5:30 p.m.
Chicago Map Society annual Holiday banquet at the Como Inn, 546 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago. Reservations required.

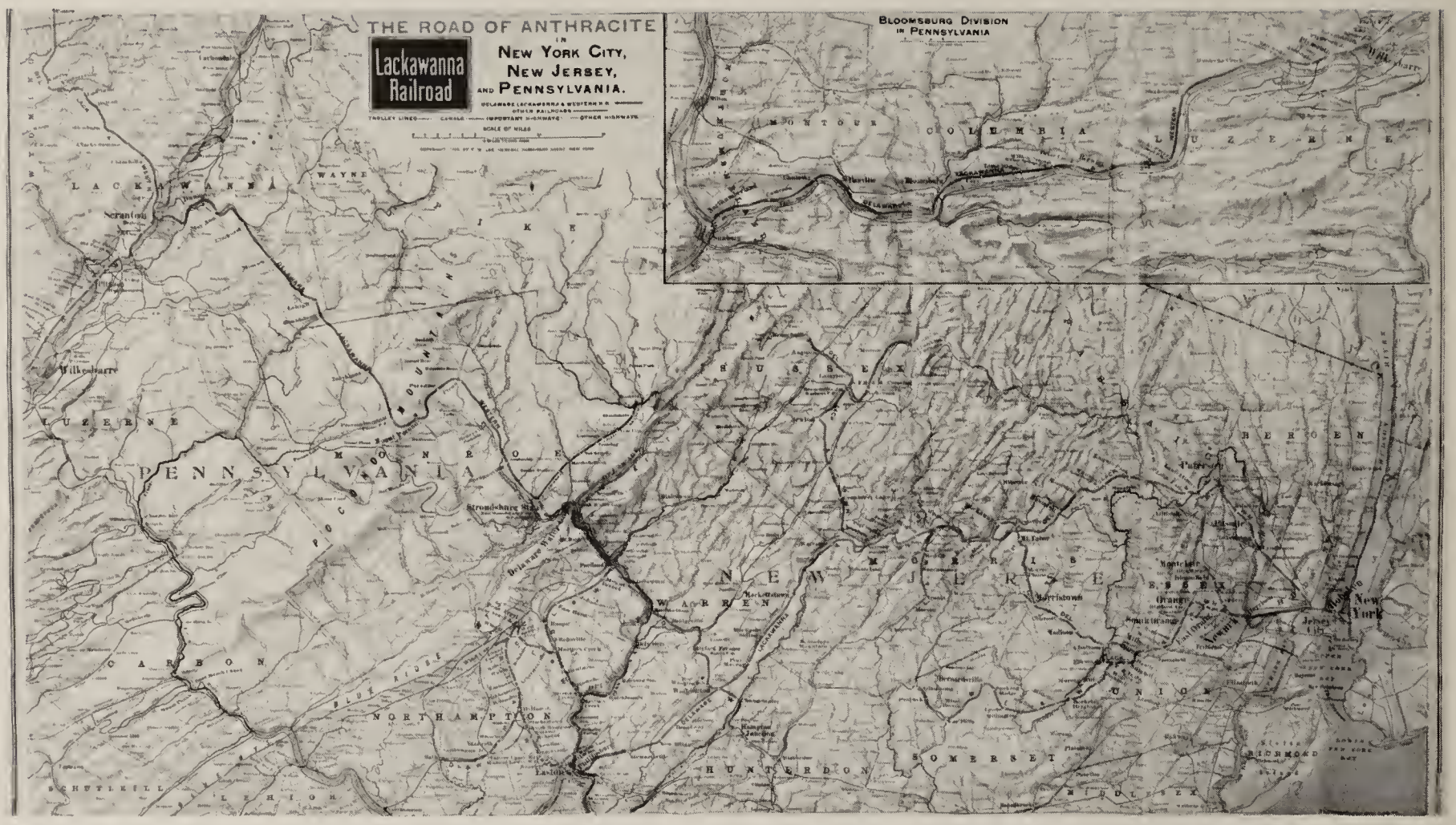
9 December 1993, 5:00 p.m.
Maps and Society lecture series, The Warburg Institute, Woburn Square, London: David Woodward (University of Wisconsin), "The Gastaldi Connection: Italian Maps of the Americas in the 1560s and 1570s."

20 January 1994, 5:00 p.m.
Maps and Society lecture series, The Warburg Institute, Woburn Square, London: Michael Rogers (Department of Art and Archaeology, School of African and Oriental Studies, University of London), "Art and Mapping: Illustrated Ottoman Campaign Journals."

17 February 1994, 5:00 p.m.
Maps and Society lecture series, The Warburg Institute, Woburn Square, London: Roger Kain (Department of Geography, University of Exeter), "Maps and History: Cadasters in the Service of the State."

1-4 September 1994
Eighth Symposium, International Coronelli Society, concerned with the history of globes and armillary spheres, will be held in Prague. For further information write to Internationale Coronelli-Gesellschaft, Dominikanerbastei 2128, A-1010, Vienna, Austria.

Map Talk



"The Road of the Anthracite in New York City, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania," in *Mountain and Lake Resorts...* (New York: Lackawanna Railroad, 1904). General Collection, the Newberry Library.

"A Silent Pilot"

Nothing helps so much in the enjoyment of your vacation as a good map. It shows you the streams and lakes you can fish, the mountains you can climb, the places of interest you can visit and the roads you can wheel or tramp. The Lackawanna Railroad has just issued a set of colored maps on a large scale, showing the territory reached by its lines in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. These maps give every highway, postoffice, trolley line and railroad, and are so bound that they can be conveniently carried in the pocket. They are invaluable to automobile tourists and travelers, and should be owned by every one who wishes to be informed on the geography of these three states. The entire set in a neat cover may be had by sending ten cents in stamps to T. W. Lee, General Passenger Agent Lackawanna Railroad, New York City.

The edition is limited -- write today.

From *Agricultural Advertising* 11, 8 (August 1904): 96. (Submitted by Bob Karrow)